

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**ACCESS CONTROL**

(Ac.)

**CODE 472**

**DEFINITION**

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

**PURPOSE**

This practice may be applied to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies on all land uses where permanent or temporary access control is needed. It is applicable on sites where the soil, vegetation, other natural resources, hazardous areas, structures, or facilities need to be protected from uncontrolled access by animals (including livestock) or human activities. The excluded or controlled area is the location where the practice is applied.

Access control activities may also be used to complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.

**CRITERIA**

Use-regulating activities (e.g., fences and other barriers, gates, posting of signs, patrolling, etc.) shall achieve the intended purpose of controlling access. Fences, if used, shall meet the requirements of the Delaware conservation practice standard for Fence (382).

Barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures, and must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

When applicable, areas disturbed during installation of this practice shall be vegetated or otherwise stabilized as soon as practical after construction, in accordance with the Delaware conservation practice standard for Critical Area Planting (342). When conditions preclude the use of vegetation, Mulching (484) may be used to provide surface cover.

*Note: Specific programs may dictate criteria in addition to, or more restrictive than those specified in this standard.*

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Assess the potential for landowner or user liability before installing barriers.

Consider the potential for soil erosion, especially when barriers will be constructed on steep slopes.

Consider the design of the barrier, and whether it might adversely affect wildlife health and animal movement.

Consider the need for access by public safety personnel, and assess whether the barrier will unnecessarily restrict activities such as fire control and emergency rescue.

Identify and evaluate any other constraints such as management options, economic feasibility, state and federal regulations, or program requirements.

*This practice has the potential to affect National Register listed cultural resources or eligible*

*(significant) cultural resources. These may include archeological, historic, or traditional cultural properties. Care should be taken to avoid adverse impacts to these resources. Follow NRCS state policy for considering cultural resources during planning.*

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications for this practice shall be prepared in accordance with the previously listed criteria. Plans and specifications shall contain sufficient detail to ensure successful implementation of this practice, and may be recorded in narrative form, on Implementation Requirements (IR) worksheets, on fact sheets, or other approved forms.

The appropriate fact sheet(s) and completed 472 IR worksheet can serve as the plan and specifications for this practice. The following items shall be addressed, as appropriate:

1. Purpose of access control;
2. Identify the entity to be regulated (e.g., animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment), and specify the method(s) of control;
3. Describe the placement, location, dimensions, and materials (e.g., fences, gates, signs), the allowed use (if any), intensity of use (e.g., number of livestock, people, or vehicles), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates), including monitoring frequency, as appropriate.
4. When installation of access control measures involves ground-disturbing activities (e.g., hand digging, earthmoving, excavating, etc.), include the following statement:

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to contact Miss Utility at 1-800-257-7777 (or dial 811) at least 2 business days in advance of construction to locate and mark underground utilities.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

An Operation and Management (O&M) plan shall be prepared and is the responsibility of the client to implement. Appropriate fact sheets may serve as the management plan, as well as supporting documentation, and shall be reviewed with and provided to the client.

At a minimum, the following components shall be addressed in the O&M plan, as applicable:

1. Inspect the access control measures at least annually to determine whether they are functioning properly to meet the objectives of the project;
2. Take corrective actions as needed to replace damaged control measures and make other repairs as needed;
3. If measures fail to control access, reassess the need for additional measures to manage excluded use.

## **SUPPORTING DATA AND DOCUMENTATION**

The following is a list of the minimum data and documentation to be recorded in the case file:

1. Location of the practice on the conservation plan map;
2. Assistance notes. The notes shall include dates of site visits, name or initials of the person who made the visit, specifics as to alternatives discussed, decisions made, and by whom;
3. Completed IR worksheet, and copy of the appropriate fact sheet(s) or other specifications and management plans.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Gucinski, H.; M.J. Furniss, R.R. Ziemer, M.H. Brookes. 2001. *Forest Roads: A Synthesis of Scientific Information*. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-509. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.
2. USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service. *Conservation Practice Standards*. Delaware Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV.
3. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2009. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads*. Washington, DC.